

Kenya - Sandy Patch/Point (Mombasa)

Mombasa · surveyed 2024-03-11



What was done. The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 117 photographs. 7 further methods were run on the same frames and are reported on the site page. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs (137 frames), not a second survey. Fieldwork with Mombasa Marine Park.

HARD CORAL COVER 29% manual point count (117 photos) · other methods on the site page	TODAY'S HEAT LOAD 26.8°C 0.0°C-weeks 16 Sep 2026 · -1.0°C vs the annual mean (27.8 °C) · NOAA No heat stress	HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW) 4.9°C-weeks NOAA annual peaks averaging 4–8 °C-weeks
MAX. DEPTH 14 m	WATER TEMP. (SURVEY) 32.5°C +4.4°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (28.1°C)	PHOTOGRAPHS 4 on file for this site
POSITION -3.9753, 39.7668		

Sandy Patch/Point, surveyed during the severe 2024 Western Indian Ocean bleaching event, was the least-bleached of 20 Kenyan sites in this study (45.4% of tissue, against a 77.1% mean across all 20) - a reef of near-continuous foliose and laminar plate corals (*Turbinaria*, *Montipora*, *Echinopora* types) alongside massive domes and abundant soft corals, with a resting green turtle, a camouflaged crocodilefish, and a run of striking nudibranchs on *Sinularia*. Published cover was 29%, down sharply from a 2017 reading of 54.0% at a nearby station; bleaching here reads as patchy and colony-by-colony rather than sorted cleanly by growth form.

Kiswahili. Eneo lililo ndani ya Hifadhi ya Bahari ya Mombasa, kwa kina cha takriban 14 m, lililosomwa kupitia picha 137 katika maji yanayokuwa ya kijani na yenye tope kwenye kina kifupi, na ya buluu na safi zaidi kadiri kina kinavyoongezeka. Upaukaji ni mchanganyiko wa koloni moja baada ya nyingine badala ya kutegemea umbo la ukuaji, na baadhi ya koloni zilizopauka zaidi ni matumbawe makubwa ya mviringo yenye mikunjo (meandroid) na yenye vishimo (cerioid). *Tafsiri ya muhtasari huu kwa AI; Kiingereza ndicho kinachotumika rasmi.*

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 29.3 · CoralNet 28.8 · In-house DINOv3 40.0 · CoralSCOP unedited 25.9 · Claude 10.0

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 1 of 4 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/kenya-sandy-patch-point-mombasa.html> · Heat stress is the mean of the latest five annual maxima of NOAA Coral Reef Watch degree-heating weeks for this reef's NOAA CRW virtual station (Kenya) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters. not a measurement at this site on the dive date.